

**Listing of the Claims:**

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A redundant hub-spoke ~~configuration for a~~ virtual  
2 private LAN (VPN) ~~of the type~~ having a plurality of emulated LANs (ELANs),  
3 each connected at a provider edge (PE) node over a service provider network,  
4 comprising:  
5 a first hub node serving client equipment (CE) devices connected on a first  
6 ELAN;[[,]]  
7 a spoke node serving CE devices on a second ELAN;  
8 a first point-to-point link L1 for interconnecting said first hub node and  
9 said spoke node;  
10 means for detecting a failure of said first point-to-point link L1, and for  
11 transmitting a corresponding failure notice; and  
12 a second hub node interconnected with said first hub node; and [[,]]  
13 ~~wherein whenever said first link L1 fails,~~  
14 means for establishing a redundant point-to-point link L2 from said second  
15 ~~hub node establishes communication with~~ to said spoke node in response to said  
16 failure notice over a second point-to-point link L2.

1 2. (Currently Amended) The redundant hub-spoke VPN ~~configuration~~ of claim  
2 1, wherein said second hub node operates as a spoke node of first said hub node  
3 based on an absence of said failure notice ~~under normal operation conditions.~~

1 3. (Currently Amended) The redundant hub-spoke VPN ~~configuration~~ of claim  
2 1, wherein said first hub node is capable of operating ~~operates~~ as a spoke node of

3 said second hub node in response to said failure notice ~~when said first hub node~~  
4 ~~fails~~.

1 4. (Currently Amended) The redundant hub-spoke VPN configuration of claim 1,  
2 wherein said means for detecting a failure of said first point-to-point link L1 is a  
3 first PE node interfacing said first hub with said service provider network  
4 monitors said first link L1 for detecting a failure at said hub node.

1 5. (Currently Amended) The redundant hub-spoke VPN configuration of claim 1,  
2 further comprising a second PE node interfacing said spoke node and said  
3 service provider network,

4 wherein said establishing a redundant point-to-point link L2 in response  
5 to said failure notice includes ~~ease of a failure at said first hub node~~, said first  
6 PE node signaling said second ~~signals to third PE node interfacing said spoke~~  
7 ~~node with said service provider network~~ to establish a second point-to-point link  
8 with said second hub node, and to re-map the traffic from said second hub node  
9 over said second point-to-point link and, in response, said second PE node  
10 establishes the second point-to-point link with said second hub node, and re-  
11 maps the traffic from said second hub node over said second point-to-point link.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The redundant hub-spoke VPN configuration of claim 1,  
2 wherein the access link between said spoke node and said second ~~third~~ PE node  
3 is an aggregated bundle of links comprising a redundant link.

1 7. (Currently Amended) The redundant hub-spoke VPN configuration of claim 6,  
2 wherein connectivity between said second ~~third~~ PE node and said spoke node is  
3 maintained when a link on said respective aggregated bundle is interrupted.

1 8. (Currently Amended) The redundant hub-spoke VPN configuration of claim 7,  
2 wherein the loss of a link in said aggregated bundle is transparent to said spoke  
3 node.

1 9. (Currently Amended) In a hub-spoke ~~configuration for a~~ virtual private LAN  
2 (VPN) of the type having a plurality of emulated LANs (ELANs), each connected  
3 at a service provider edge (PE) node over an access link, a method for recovering  
4 the traffic in case of a failure, comprising:

5 a) transmitting traffic from a first hub node to a first spoke node of said  
6 first hub node over a first point-to-point link established between a first PE node  
7 at said first hub node and a second third PE node at said first spoke node of said  
8 first hub node;

9 providing a second hub node, having a third PE node, connected to said  
10 first hub node by a second point-to-point link between said first hub node and  
11 said second hub node;

12 b) at said second third PE node, monitoring the traffic on said first point-  
13 to-point link to detect a fault; and

14 e) responsive to said detecting a fault on said first point-to-point link,  
15 signaling said fault from said second third PE node to said first PE node,[[;]] and

16 d) transmitting traffic from the first hub node to the first spoke node of  
17 said first hub node by forming a redundant link comprising the second point-to-  
18 point link from the first hub node to the second hub node and form a second hub  
19 node to said spoke node over a third second point-to-point link established  
20 between [[a]] the third second PE node at said second hub node and said second  
21 third PE node.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said transmitting  
2 traffic from a first hub node to a spoke node of said first hub node over a first  
3 point-to-point link ~~step a)~~ comprises:

4 at said first hub node, bridging the traffic destined to said spoke node of  
5 said first hub node toward towards said first PE node;

6 at said first PE node, tunneling the traffic received from said first hub  
7 node along said first point-to-point link connection to said second third PE node,

8 at said third PE node, mapping the traffic received over said first point-to-  
9 point link connection to said first spoke node of said first hub node; and

10 at said first spoke node of said first hub node, bridging the traffic received  
11 from said second third PE node.

1 11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein step a) comprises:

2 at said second hub node, bridging the traffic destined to said first spoke  
3 node of said first hub node toward ~~towards~~ said second third PE node;

4 at said second PE node, tunneling the traffic received from said second  
5 hub node along said second point-to-point link connection to said second third  
6 PE node,

7 at said second third PE node, mapping the traffic received over said  
8 second point-to-point link connection to said first spoke node of said first hub  
9 node; and

10 at said first spoke node of said first hub node, bridging the traffic received  
11 from said second third PE node.

1 12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said signaling said  
2 fault from said second PE node to said first PE node ~~step-e)~~ comprises using a  
3 Layer 1 signaling protocol.

1 13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising operating  
2 ~~wherein~~ said second hub node ~~operates~~ as a second spoke node of said first hub  
3 node absent said monitoring detecting a fault under normal operation  
4 condition[[s]].

1 14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
2 responsive to said detecting a fault on said first point-to-point link  
3 operating wherein said first hub node ~~operates~~ as a spoke node of said second  
4 hub node ~~when said hub node fails~~.

1 15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein first and second point-  
2 to-point links connections are point-to-point Ethernet tunnels.

1 16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the access link  
2 between said second ~~third~~ PE node and said first spoke node of said first hub  
3 node is an aggregated bundle of links comprising a redundant link.

1 17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein connectivity between  
2 second ~~third~~ PE node and said first spoke node of said first hub node is  
3 maintained when a link on said aggregated bundle is interrupted.

1 18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the loss of a link in  
2 said aggregated bundle is transparent to said first spoke node.

19. (Withdrawn) A method of providing a multipoint emulated LAN connecting  
a plurality of sites with site-to-site bandwidth guarantees, comprising:

configuring a second customer located equipment PLE to perform  
multipoint switching of the traffic in a first VC/tunnel established between a  
first site and said second site, to one of a second or a third site, based on the  
MAC address;

configuring a first CLE to operate as a spoke of said first CLE to perform  
point-to-point switching of said first VC/tunnel, and of a second VC/tunnel  
established between said third site and said second site; and

allocating a first bandwidth to said first VC/tunnel and a second  
bandwidth to said second VC/tunnel and rate limiting traffic in each said first  
VC/tunnel and said second VC/tunnel to said respective allocated bandwidth.

20. (Withdrawn) In a virtual private LAN (VPL) of the type having a plurality of  
emulated LANs, each emulated LAN comprising an access device connected to a  
service provider edge PE node along an access link identified by a data link  
connection identifier, and a first PE is interconnected with a second PE along a

point-to-point link, a method of establishing a hybrid connection between a first customer equipment CE device on said VPL and a second CE device that operates according to a different communication protocol, said method comprising:

- a) at said second CE device, performing bridged encapsulation of the traffic and transmitting a second type protocol data unit (PDU) over a second access link to a second provider edge (PE) node;

- b) at said second PE node, decapsulating traffic from said PDU, and transmitting the traffic into a service provider type PDU over a dedicated point-to-point tunnel across said service provider network to a first PE node;

- c) at said first PE node, decapsulating the traffic from said service provider PDU, converting it to a first type PDU and transmitting said PDU to a first access device over a first access link;

- d) at said first access device, bridging said PDU to said first CE device.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein said first access link is differentiated at said first access device by a dedicated first data link connection identifier DCLI, and said second access link is differentiated at said second PE node by a dedicated second DCLI.

22. (Withdrawn) In a VPL of the type having a plurality of emulated LANs, each emulated LAN comprising an access link to a service provider edge PE node identified by a data link connection identifier, a method of establishing a hybrid connection between a first customer equipment CE device on said VPL and a second CE device that operates according to a different communication protocol, said method comprising:

- a) at said first CE device, bridging a first type PDU to a first PE node over a first access link;

- c) at said first PE node, decapsulating traffic from said first type PDU, encapsulating the traffic into a service provider type PDU and transporting it

over a dedicated point-to-point tunnel across said service provider network to a second PE node; and

d) at said second PE, decapsulating traffic from said service-provider PDU, performing bridged encapsulation of the traffic in a second type PDU and sending it to said second CE device over a second access link.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein said first access link and said second access link of said hybrid connection are distinct from access links for a homogeneous connections between any CE devices operating according to said first communication protocol.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, where said first communication protocol is Ethernet and said second communication protocol is one of Frame Relay and ATM.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein said second type PDU is an FR frame or an ATM cell, and said service provider type PDU is an IP packet of an IP Layer2 Transport type.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein step c) comprises:

provisioning the network address of said second CE device at said first PE node;

at said first CE, sending an ARP request to said first PE node for the IP destination address of said second CE device,

receiving the MAC address of said PE node if said second device is connected to said second PE node.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, wherein said second PE device uses Inverse ARP capabilities to discover the network address of said second CE device.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, wherein said first PE node uses signaling to provide said first CE device with the network address of said second CE device.

29. (Withdrawn) In a VPL of the type having a plurality of emulated LANs, each emulated LAN comprising an access link to a service provider edge PE node identified by a data link connection identifier, a method of establishing a hybrid connection between a first customer equipment CE device on said VPL and a second CE device that operates according to a different communication protocol, said method comprising:

- a) at said second CE device, performing routed encapsulation of traffic into a second type PDU and transmitting said second type PDU to a second PE node over a second access link;

- b) at said second PE node, decapsulating traffic from said second type PDU, encapsulating the traffic into a subscriber network type PDU and transmitting it over a dedicated point-to-point tunnel to a first PE node;

- c) at said first PE node, decapsulating the traffic received over said dedicated point-to-point tunnel, encapsulating it into a first-type PDU, and sending first-type PDU to an access device over a second access link; and

- at said access device, bridging said PDU to said first CE device.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein said first CE device is an IP router and said second device is a FR or ATM router.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30, wherein step c) comprises

- sending from said first PE node a proxy ARP request to said first access device over said first access link;

- receiving in a response ARP request the MAC address corresponding to the IP address of said first-type PDU; and

- transmitting said first-type PDU to said first CE device based on said MAC address.



32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, further comprising caching said MAC address at said first PE node.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein if said first CE device is on an emulated LAN served by said second PE node, said first CE device sends said response ARP directly to said second PE device.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein said first CE device is an IP router enabled with an IRDP protocol (Internet Control Message Protocol Router Discovery Protocol) and said second device is a FR or ATM router.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein step c) comprises: listening at said first PE node for advertisement messages issued by said first CE on said first access link; discovering the MAC address of said first CE device and transmitting said first-type PDU to said first CE device based on said MAC address.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, further comprising caching said MAC address at said first PE node.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein when said MAC address identifies a non-optimal router, step c) further comprises sending a redirect message to said second PE with the address of said optimal router so that subsequent PDUs are sent to optimal router.